

I am writing to you today as a current Dish Network subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

In my area, most local TV channels are weak or impossible to receive over the air. In addition to the cost of the satellite service, I have to pay People's Choice TV to bring the local channels to my home. The merger will make it possible for the local channels to be provided by satellite, so I do not have to pay extra for local programming. The merger will also make it possible for the satellite company to offer more HDTV programming, which is not available in my area from any other source.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.